Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Workshops

Workshop Agenda

Chicago (5-6), San Francisco (9-10), Houston (12-13)

December 2002

Projected Agenda

Emissions Reporting

- Cross-cutting issues:
  - Rigor versus practicality
  - Confidentiality
  - Verifiability
  - Relationship to other reporting programs and protocols
  - Comparability within and across sectors

Organizational and Geographic Boundaries

- Encouraging entity-wide reporting?
- What defines an entity?
- How to define corporate and institutional boundaries: equity share; operational control; governance?
- How much flexibility in defining boundaries?
- Reporting non-US emissions: whether and how?

Operational Boundaries and Related Issues: Direct vs. Indirect Emissions

- Should end users report electricity and steam purchases?
  - How to convert to emissions?
- Reporting other indirect emissions such as those associated with materials used; business travel; employee commuting; and use of manufactured products
  - How to estimate?

Operational Boundaries and Related Issues: Gases and Sources Covered

- Require / encourage reports on all six UNFCCC gases? Others?

- How to treat or exempt:
  - Very small sources?
  - Difficult sources to measure?

Measurement and Accounting Methods

- Specifying an initial reporting year(s) (e.g., 2003 or after? 1987 or after?)

- Which emissions measurement or estimation methods should be used:
  - Fossil fuel use or actual emissions?
  - Fuel and GWP conversion factors?
  - Methods for non-fossil gases?

Emission Reductions and Sequestration

Starting Point: Accurate, Reliable, Verifiable

- What are the characteristics of credible emission reductions?
- What methods should be used to produce credible estimates of such reductions?

Characteristics of Credible Reductions

- Why identify emission reductions?
  - Credits and trading?
  - Recognition under voluntary programs?
  - Future use?
  - Other?
- Who receives recognition or credit?
  - Electricity generators or users ?
  - Product manufacturers or end-users?
  - Outside corporate boundaries? Outside U.S.?
  - Project owners or investors?

Characteristics of Credible Reductions, continued

- Should reductions be absolute changes in emissions or adjusted for changes in output?
- Should other causes of reductions be considered, such as weather, technology, voluntary programs, regulations, new investment, improved management?
- Recognize only net entity-wide reductions or sub-entity or project-specific reductions?
- Recognize actions that displace or avoid emissions?

Calculation Methods

- Absolute emissions reductions:
  - Restricted to entity-wide?
  - Should adjustments be made (e.g., divestitures)?
  - Fixed or dynamic baselines?

- Emissions intensity baselines:
  - Intensity metrics (for electricity sector; manufacturing?)
  - Restricted to entity-wide?
  - What if no entity-wide metric exists?
  - Fixed and dynamic baselines?

Calculation Methods, continued

- Projects:
  - Types of qualifying projects:
    - Sequestration and emission avoidance
    - Efficiency improvements
    - Other
  - Fixed or dynamic baselines?
  - Minimizing leakage?
  - Calculating avoided emissions?

Other Issues

- Base years (starting when? averaged?)
- Multi-year reporting

Breakout Groups

- Electricity Generation including Grid-Connected Renewable Generation
- Industrial and other Large Sources
- Small Distributed Sources: Residential/Commercial Buildings,Transportation, and End Use Renewables
- Agricultural and Forestry

Electricity Generation including Grid-Connected Renewable Generation

- Options for intensity baselines?
  - Applying intensity baselines for utilities and utility systems
  - Estimating displaced emissions
- Treatment of acquisitions / divestitures?
- Should causes of reductions, other than output, be considered, such as weather, technology, voluntary programs, regulations, new investment, improved management?
- Minimizing double-counting:
  - Green power sales / purchases?
  - DSM incentives / programs?

Industrial and Other Large Sources

- Options for Intensity Baselines:
  - Entity-wide physical measures of output, e.g., tons of cement?
  - Sub-entity measures of output, e.g., for business-lines, plants?
  - Economic measures of output?
  - Who chooses output measures?
- If no measures of output, then what?
- Treatment of non-carbon emissions? Are output measures needed?
- Protecting confidentiality

Small Distributed Sources: Residential / Commercial Buildings, Transportation, and End Use Renewables

- How to credit emission reductions by small users in residential, commercial and transportation sectors?
- Should manufacturers / builders qualify for credits? Others?
- Minimizing double-counting?
- Calculating emission reductions associated with efficient products?
- Should efficiency thresholds to qualify for credits? Existing or future standards? Energy Star levels? Other?

Agricultural and Forestry

- Treatment of agriculture and forestry within 1605(b)
  - Entity versus project-level reporting
  - Baselines
- Sequestration
  - Methods of calculating effects of sequestration projects
  - Permanence
  - Leakage

Verifying Emissions and Reductions

- Types and frequency of verification:
  - Periodic? All reports?
  - Process and methods?
    - Checking data
    - Physical inspections?
    - On-site or off-site?
- Maintenance of records
- Who should verify?

Managing the Registry of Emission Reports and Reductions

- Certifying Reports and Reductions:
  - Government review process?
  - Documentation of reductions? Of transfers?
  - DOE database of certified reductions?
- Public versus confidential data:
  - Should data submitted to DOE be made publicly available?
  - Can DOE effectively protect confidential data?
- Treatment of prior year reports?
- Not penalizing under future climate policy / transferable credits?